

**PROPOSED CLAIM AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS 26, 21**

**26. (Currently Amended)** An interlabial pad for absorbing body fluid having a substantially rectangular shape comprising:

a face adapted to face a body;

an opposite face adapted to face a garment;

said substantially rectangular-shaped pad having first and second edges at opposing first and second terminal end edges in a longitudinal direction of the interlabial pad;

a cavity for finger insertion formed along the longitudinal direction of the interlabial pad on the opposite face, the cavity being formed between the opposite face and a mini-sheet; the mini-sheet having a first terminal end edge and a second terminal end edge in the longitudinal direction of the interlabial pad, wherein the mini-sheet is directly attached to a portion of the opposite face; and

a cavity opening formed from the first terminal end edge of the mini-sheet for guiding a fingertip of a wearer inserted therein toward a finger restriction portion formed at an opposing end of the cavity and adapted to stop the fingertip inserted therein, the opposing end of the cavity being at a position displaced from the second terminal end edge of the mini-sheet toward the first terminal end edge of the mini-sheet;

wherein the mini-sheet extends from one lateral side to another lateral side of the interlabial pad and has a total length from the first terminal end edge thereof to the second terminal end edge thereof in the longitudinal direction of 50% to 80% of an entire length of the interlabial pad from the first terminal end edge of the pad to the second terminal end edge of the pad;

wherein the mini-sheet extends in the longitudinal direction from a position displaced from the second terminal end edge of the interlabial pad to an intermediate position along the longitudinal direction between the first and second terminal end edges of the interlabial pad;

wherein a cross-sectional area of the cavity is gradually narrowed along the longitudinal direction of the interlabial pad in a direction proceeding from the

first terminal end edge toward the second terminal end edge of the interlabial pad, such that the fingertip that is inserted can be stopped;

wherein the finger restriction portion is defined by two facing portions of a fold formed in the opposite face, the fold extending in a longitudinal direction from the first terminal end edge to the second terminal end edge of the interlabial pad;

wherein the two facing portions include respective portions which are substantially parallel to each other in a plane that is substantially perpendicular to a plane extending through the crest of the fold from the opposite face to the face adapted to face the body ~~the fold~~, the two facing portions being directly bonded to each other at least at ~~[[a]]~~ another respective portion thereof,

wherein the fold formed in the opposite face forms a portion protruding from a remaining portion of the face adapted to face the body, and the remaining portion forms a first planar portion at one side of the protruding portion and a second planar portion at another side of the protruding portion which portions are ~~being~~ substantially parallel to one another~~[[;]]~~ and parallel with and opposite to the respective portions of the two facing portions;

wherein the protruding portion is coextensive with the fold.

**Claim 21 (Currently Amended):** The interlabial pad according to claim 26, wherein the mini-sheet is attached ~~so as to be~~ in direct contact with the respective portions of the two facing portions formed in ~~portions of~~ the opposite face ~~forming~~ opposite to the respective first planar portion and the second planar portion ~~covered thereby, wherein the mini sheet is arranged opposite to the cavity opening.~~

### **RATIONALE FOR AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS 26, 21**

In claim 26, the two facing portions of the finger restriction portion formed in the opposite face represent two complete halves of the opposite face positioned on either side of the fold (see annotated FIG. 2). In other words, the facing portions face each other with reference to the plane extending through the crest of the fold (see annotated FIG. 1), and each facing portion includes both a region within the fold and a region laterally outside the fold. The regions of the facing portions defined as “respective portions [of the two facing portions]” are the portions that extend laterally outside of the fold, and are parallel to a plane that is substantially perpendicular to a plane extending through the crest of the fold (see annotated FIGs. 1 and 2).

It can be seen that each of the first and second planar portions and the respective portions of the first and second facing portions are parallel to the plane that is substantially perpendicular to the plane extending through the crest of the fold. As a result, the first and second planar portions are necessarily parallel to the respective portions of the two facing portions.

The planar portions are defined as being formed in a remaining portion of the face that faces the body, while the respective portions of the two facing portions are defined as being formed in the opposite face. As a result, the respective portion of each facing portion is opposite to its corresponding planar portion.